

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 MCT-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13  
/084 W

-----118760 201331Z /41

P R 200953Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7044

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2095

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJ: LAWLESSNESS IN ALGERIA'S KABYLIA REGION

1. IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES REPORTS THAT THERE WERE DISORDERS IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST IN THE KABYLIA REGION OF NORTH CENTRAL ALGERIA. MOST DETAILED ACCOUNT COMES FROM A KABYLIE WHO SAYS THAT A GROUP OF ARMED FORMER RESISTANCE FIGHTERS (ANCIENS MOUDJAHIDNE) SURROUNDED A GENDARMERIE POST AT TIZI GHENIFF (ROUGHLY 36 45 NBY 3 35 E) AND DEMANDED THAT GARRISON COME OUT AND FIGHT. WHEN GARRISON REFUSED CHALLENGE, RESISTANCE FIGHTERS WENT TO TIZI GHENIFF VILLAGE AND ORDERED EVACUATION OF CAFE WHICH THEY HAD HEARD TWO FLN FUNCTIONARIES WERE VISITING. WHEN EVERYONE WAS OUT OF CAFE, FLN FUNCTIONARIES WERE SUMMARILY EXECUTED.

2. OTHER SOURCES HAVE LESS PRECISE INFORMATION ON INCIDENT, BUT ALL AGREE THAT THERE WAS SOME SORT OF CLASH AND THAT LIVES WERE

LOST.

3. A SECOND POINT OF AGREEMENT IS THAT KABYLIE-REGIME RELATIONS ARE STRAINED GENERALLY AND THAT THERE IS RESENTMENT IN KABYLIA AT VARIOUS MEASURES GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN RECENTLY. EXPULSIONS FROM REGION OF FRENCH CLERICS LAST SUMMER STILL REMEMBERED, AND VOID LEFT IN KABYLIA'S SECONDARY EDUCATION APPARENTLY NOT SATISFACTORILY FILLED. OTHER OFFICIAL MEASURES, NOTABLY GATHERING UP OF HUNTING WEAPONS, RESTRICTIONS ON SALE OF WINE, AND APPOINTMENT OF MILITANT ARABIST AS GOVERNOR OF REGION, HAVE ALSO INCURRED HOSTILITY.

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LATENT ANTIPATHY OF KABYLIES FOR THEIR ARAB BRETHREN SURFACED AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SOCCER MATCH LAST SPRING WHEN SUPPORTERS OF VICTORIOUS KABYLIE TEAM REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO STAND FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM AND SHOUTED ANTI-ARAB SLOGANS. DEMONSTRATION OF HOSTILITY SO OPEN AT GAME AS TO PROVOKE SEVERAL REPROVING EDITORIALS IN OFFICIAL PRESS.

4. APPARENT KABYLIE DISCONTENT AND LAWLESSNESS COMES AT TIME OF UNEASE IN ALGERIA AS WHOLE. PARTIAL BAKERY WORKERS STRIKE IN ALGIERS DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF RAMADHAN CAUSED CONCERN, AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT TRACTS CALLING FOR GENERAL STRIKE HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED IN CAPITAL. ONE WELL INFORMED EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT BOUMEDIEN WILL FIND SOME SUITABLE OCCASION IN NEAR FUTURE TO ADDRESS NATION AND TO URGE CALM.

5. COMMENT: IMPORTANCE OF FOREGOING INCIDENT, AND OF STRIKES AND OTHER SIGNS OF UNEASE, SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED. VIOLENT DISPUTES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNED ARE FAIRLY REGULAR OCCURRENCES HERE, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT REGIME SERIOUSLY ALARMED BY APPARENT UNREST.

6. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH DISCONTENT, AND WILLINGNESS TO MAKE DISCONTENT KNOWN, APPEAR HIGHER NOW THAN AT ANY TIME IN PAST TWO YEARS, AND DISORDER IN HISTORICALLY REBELLIOUS KABYLIA IS LIKELY GIVING REGIME FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

HAYNES

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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